**Welfare Schemes announced by PM for North Eastern States**

1292. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Welfare and Development Programmes/Schemes for the people of North-Eastern States announced by the Prime Minister last month;

(b) whether the required resources for these programmes have been earmarked; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The details of Welfare and Development Programmes/Schemes announced by the Prime Minister are given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 27]* The required resources for those programmes would be met from existing budget provisions or by reappropriation/supplementary grants for 1996-97 as applicable and provision made for the same in the 9th Five Year Plan.

**Revival of facility of beep by MTNL**

1293. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. was providing facility of beep after completion of duration of local call of 5 minutes till August, 96;

(b) whether intention for such facility was to alert subscribers for not keeping their phones busy for minutes together;

(c) whether this facility has since been discountinued without giving any Public Notice through media or through individually, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether discontinuation of such facility has benefited the MTNL in any way;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether duration of local calls at present is five minutes; and

(g) whether Government propose to revive the facility of beep with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. Beep tone was provided in the year 1992 only in Digital Electronic Exchanges in large telephone systems on experimental basis for the awareness of the subscribers about the completion of one call unit every five minutes. Since the subscribers have become familier about the metering aspects and because of technical problems in data transmission and mutilation of FAX message it was decided to discontinue this facility.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

**Arjun Tank Project**

1294. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment's attention had been drawn to the report in the National Herald of August 26, 1996 captioned, "Arjun Tank Project Under Cloud".

(b) if so, the precise stage the project stands at present; and

(c) the modifications and amends, if any, contemplated to make the tank

effective enough to meet the needs of the army, both in regard to mobility, hitting range and economy of operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After extensive user trial and performance evaluation by the Army, the Main Battle Tank 'ARJUN' has been cleared for production.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

**Enhance the State Shares for maintenance and repairs of N.H.**

1295. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer the reply to Unstarred Question 3112 given in Rajya Sabha on the 4th September, 1996 and state:

(a) the allocations for different States, State-wise under the orginal Works and maintenance and repairs of National Highways during last three years, year-wise and amount actually allotted; and

(b) the broad-guidelines Central Government follows in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI I.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A Statement is enclosed as Annexure [*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 28*]

(b) The funds for the development of National Highways are allotted to various States depending upon the stage of the ongoing works, overall priority of the work, and the availablility of funds, etc. The funds for normal maintenance i.e. ordinary repairs/ periodical renewals are released on pro-rata basis mainly based on surface area of the pavement and depending upon the availability of funds. The funds for special repairs and flood damage repairs are allotted based on the works sanctioned keeping in view the condition of the road, traffic intensity, overall priority of the works and the availability of funds, etc.

**गुजरात में वस्त्र उद्योग के रंगाई घर (प्रोसेसिंग हाउस) में मंदी**

1296. श्री रामजी लाल: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि विशेषकर गुजरात में वस्त्र उद्योग के रंगाई (प्रोसेसिंग) क्षेत्र में भारी मंदी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उद्योग की सहायता करने की दृष्टि से निर्यात पुनः शुरू करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० जालप्पा): (क) जी हां।

(ख) इस समय वस्त्र संसाधन उद्योग सहित आमतौर पर औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में मंदी है। वस्त्र संसाधन क्षेत्र में मंदी के कुछ कारण हैं जैसे उद्योग की विकेन्द्रीकृत प्रकृति, उपयुक्त गुणवत्ता संसाधन तकनीकों का अभाव, विदेशी बाजार में पारिस्थितिकी अनुकूल वस्त्रों के बारे में बढ़ती हुई जागरूकता आदि।

(ग) सरकार ने संसाधित वस्त्र मदों के निर्यात पर प्रतिबन्ध नहीं लगाया है। अतः निर्यात को फिर शुरू करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

**Repairing of National Highways in Punjab**

1297. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the kilometers of National Highway in Punjab need repair;

(b) the total amount sanctioned to the State of Punjab for National Highway repairs; and

(c) the kilometers of distance on which repairs would be possible from this fund?